

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 ARA-06 IO-11 EB-07 /090 W

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P R 210815Z FEB 76 ZFG

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2863

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, AO, ZA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S PRESS CONFERENCE: ANGOLA AND RHODESIA

1. SUMMARY. IN FEBRUARY 20 PRESS CONFERENCE PRESIDENT KAUNDA REAFFIRMED ZAMBIAN POSITION ON ANGOLA. SAID ZAMBIA NOT HOSTILE TO MPLA BUT WANTS PEACE, UNITY, AND END TO FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. ZAMBIA WILL NOT HELP UNITA FIGHT MPLA. SAID HE HOPED ZAMBIA WOULD BE PERMITTED RESUME EXPORT OF COPPER OVER BENGUELA RAILWAY WHEN IT AGAIN OPERATIONAL BUT STRESSED ZAMBIA WILL NOT GO DOWN ON ITS KNEES TO MPLA. ON RHODESIA KAUNDA WARNED WHITE SETTLERS THAT THEIR OPPORTUNITY FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT

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IS RAPIDLY RECEDING BUT DECLINED TO SAY WHETHER HE CONSIDERS

SMITH-NKOMO NEGOTIATIONS HAVE NOW BROKEN DOWN. KAUNDA STRONGLY DEFENDED HIS CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA OVER RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT, SAID THESE NOT UNDERTAKEN IN RETURN FOR ANY ECONOMIC BENEFITS, AND CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT ZAMBIA HAD URGED SOUTH AFRICA TO INTERVENE IN ANGOLA, OR HELPED SAVIMBI WITH SAG CONTACTS. THREATENED TO TAKE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST FOREIGN MEDIA WHICH HAVE CARRIED SUCH STORIES. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. PRESIDENT KAUNDA HELD MAJOR PRESS CONFERENCE COVERED BY RADIO AND TV AT LUSAKA'S MULUNGUSHI HALL ON MORNING OF FEBRUARY 20 ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF PARTY AND GOVERNMENT AND DIPLOMATIC COPRS. PURPOSE OF CONFERENCE WAS TO ANNOUNCE SOME REALIGNMENTS OF PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND PROVINCIAL CABINET MINISTER RESPONSIBILITIES (BEING REPORTED BY AIRGRAM), BUT OBVIOUSLY PRESIDENT'S PRINCIPAL CONCERN WAS TO REAFFIRM AND TO VINDICATE HIS POLICIES TOWARD ANGOLA AND OTHER SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION ISSUES.

3. ANGOLA. PRESIDENT REAFFIRMED POSITION ON ANGOLA ANNOUNCED BY FONMIN BANDA IN PARLIAMENT ON FEBRUARY 18 (LUSAKA 407). CALLING INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA BY VARIETY OF FOREIGN POWERS FOR VARIOUS ALLEGED PURPOSES A "POLITICAL IRISH STEW", KAUNDA STATED ZAMBIA HAS NO INTERESTS IN ANGOLA BEYOND WANTING PEACE, UNITY, AND WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES. ALL FOREIGN POWERS INVOLVED THERE MUST UNDERSTAND, HE SAID IN STATEMENT CLEARLY AIMED AT SOVIETS, THAT NO POWER ON EARTH CAN CONTINUE INDEFINITELY TO OPPRESS ANOTHER PEOPLE, POLITICALLY, ECONOMICALLY, OR CULTURALLY, AND GET AWAY WITH IT. ZAMBIA WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO HELP BRING PEACE TO ANGOLA. SAID MPLA COULD NOT CONTROL ANGOLA WITHOUT NEGOTIATING MODUS VIVENDI WITH FNLA AND UNITA. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, KAUNDA SAID ZAMBIA WOULD NOT RPT NOT AID UNITA TO CARRY ON GUERRILLA WARFARE AGAINST MPLA.

4. RELATIONS WITH MPLA. PRESIDENT REAFFIRMED THAT ZAMBIA NOT HOSTILE TO MPLA. SAID AT LUNCHEON PREVIOUS DAY OUTGOING NIGERIAN HICOM FABUNMI HAD TOLD HIM NETO SAID HIS QUARREL WITH ZAMBIA IS OVER PAST ZAMBIAN PROTECTION FOR AND AID TO FORMER NETO LIEUTENANT DANIEL CHIPENDA. KAUNDA CORRECTED NETO'S MISCONCEPTION BY REVIEWING HISTORY OF ZAMBIAN EFFORTS IN 1974 TO HELP RESOLVE MPLA INTERNAL DIFFERENCES AND; NEED THEN FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ZAMBIAN SECURITY FORCES TO PROTECT CHIPENDA FROM THREAT ON HIS LIFE. IN END CHIPENDA LEFT ZAMBIA IN A HUFF "NEVER EVER TO RETURN" BECAUSE KAUNDA WOULD NOT SUPPORT HIM AGAINST NETO. IF THIS ONLY THING DIVIDING MPLA AND ZAMBIA, PRESIDENT SAID, THEN HE WAS NOW GRATEFUL TO FABUNMI FOR OPPORTUNITY PUBLICLY TO PUT FACTS ARIGHT. ASKED IF ZAMBIA EXPECTED RESUME EXPORT OF COPPER THROUGH LOBITO ONCE BENGUELA RAILWAY AGAIN OPERATIONAL, PRESIDENT SAID THIS DECISION IS UP TO MPLA. ZAMBIA WOULD HOPE

TO USE LOBITO BUT WILL NOT GO DOWN ON ITS KNESS TO MPLA.

5. RHODESIA. KAUNDA REPEATED PET METAPHOR ABOUT AFRICAN HAVING SURGEONS TO BRING ABOUT BIRTH OF INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE THROUGH CAESAREAN OPERATION IF "NATURAL BIRTH" IMPOSSIBLE. HE SPOKE SCORNFULLY OF SMITH CONTENTION HIS ELECTORATE WILL NOT ACCEPT MAJORITY RULE. WARNED WHITE SETTLERS THAT THEIR LAST CHANCE FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT THAT WOULD ASSURE THEM CONTINUED POSSESSION F THEIR PROPERTIES IS NOW RAPIDLY RECEDING. AFRICAN PATIENCE IS NOW EXHAUSTED AND BLOODBATH WILL FOLLOW. LATER, HOWEVER, PRESIDENT REFUSED BE PINNED DOWN ON QUESTION WHETHER OR NOT SMITH -NKOMO NEGOTIATIONS OVER MAJORITY RULE HAVE DEFINITELY FAILED. INSTEAD, HE RECALLED HAVING WARNED NKOMO LATTER WOULD BECOME IRREVLEVANT IF THESE TALKS FAILED.

6. SOUTHAFRICA. PRESIDENT LASHED OUT AT FOREIGN MEDIA THAT ALLEGED ZAMBIA SOUGHT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM SOUTH AFRICA AS PRICE OF DETENTE; FACILITATED UNITA LEADER SAVIMBI VISITS TO SOUTH AFRICA; OR ENCOURAGED SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA (LUSAKA 397). STRONGLY DEFENDING HIS CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AS AUTHORIZED ON BEHALF OF OTHER AFRICAN PRESIDENTS AND CONSISTENT WITH LUSAKA MANIFESTO, PRESIDENT SAID THEY ARE "NOTHING FOR WHICH ZAMBIA SHOULD BE ASHAMED". ADDED THAT HE HIS ASKED HIS LEGAL ADVISORS TO LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING SUIT FOR LIBEL AGAINST FOREIGN MEDIA CARRYING SUCH ALLEGATIONS.

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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P R 210815Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2864

CFFO RUTABA/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 954

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
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CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

7. US POLICY. PRESIDENT RECALLED TELLING MY PREDECESSOR AMB
GOOD TEN YEARS AGO THAT SOME DAY US WOULD FIND ITSELF IN AFRICA
FIGHTING WITH WHITE RACISTS AGAINST BLACK NATIONALISTS WHO,
DEPRIVED OF WESTERN ARMS, HAD TURNED TO EASTERN POWER FOR
HELP AND THEREBY BEEN LABELLED "COMMUNISTS." SAID SITUATION
IN ANGOLA
AND GROWING GUERRILLA ACTIVITY IN RHODESIA
PROVED CORRECTNESS OF ZAMBIAN ASSESSMENT THAT SOUTHERN
AFRICA WILL BE LIBERATED BY FORCE. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION
ON CUBAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES KAUNDA SAID THAT AFRICA IS OUR
OWN RESPONSIBILITY AND WE CAN LIBERATE IT OURSELVES. END
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8. PRESIDENT ALSO HAD COMMENTS ON JOURNALISTS QUESTIONS ON
ALLEGED CIA AND SOVIET INTERFERENCE IN ZAMBIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS
WHICH BEING REPORTED SEPTEL.

9. COMMENT: PRESIDENT WAS IN EXCELLENT FORM AND SPOKE
WITHOUT NOTES AND WITH GREAT SELF-CONFIDENCE FOR NEARLY TWO
HOURS. HE OBVIOUSLY ANNOYED BY PRESS ALLEGATIONS THAT
ZAMBIAN ACTIVELY COLLABORATED WITH SOUTH AFRICA TO SUPPORT
SAVIMBI AND ANXIOUS TO GET HIS OWN DENIAL OF THESE ALLEGATIONS
ON THE RECORD. PRESS CONFERENCE MAY REFLECT CERTAIN CONCERN
OVER FURTHER ISOLATION WITHIN AFRICA IF THESE INSINUATIONS OF
ZAMBIAN "SELL OUT" TO SOUTH AFRICA FOR ECONOMIC BENEFITS COME
TO BE WIDELY BELIEVED. ALSO CONFERENCE SERVED TO DEFEND HIS
POLICIES AGAINST CRITICS WITHIN HIS OWN PARTY AND
GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHMENT. HE ACKNOWLEDGED AT ONE POINT THAT
HIGHLY PLACED ZAMBIANS -- "SMALL PUPPETS, LITTLE MEN, WINDUP
TOYS" -- HAD BEEN MALIGNING THESE POLICIES AND WARNED THAT
THESE PERSONS KNOWN TO HIM AND WOULD BE POLICALLY "RE-EDUCATED."
WILKOWSKI

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